

**ABSTRACT**

A traffic recovery mechanism for communication networks uses a layer-1 adaptive rate protection scheme that compliments layer-3 restoration mechanisms. The protection scheme allocates less bandwidth to the traffic during a protection switch than during the normal operating conditions. This scheme allows the network to roll off more gracefully from the perspective of the applications routed through it. Rate adaptation is effected by a new interface between the data equipment and the transport network, which switches information transfer rate between two or more predetermined levels.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176